



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **Jury convicts Los Angeles area computer store owner of trafficking in counterfeit software**

LOS ANGELES — The owner and operator of Media Solutions, a now-defunct Los Angeles area computer hardware and software store, has been convicted for trafficking in counterfeit Symantec and Quicken computer software in connection with an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Joan Huang, 43, of Rancho Palos Verdes, was found guilty yesterday afternoon of one count of conspiring to sell counterfeit software, five counts of attempted trafficking in counterfeit software, and one count of trafficking in the software.

The jury heard evidence that in 2002 and 2003 Huang purchased or tried to purchase thousands of copies of counterfeit versions of Norton Anti-Virus, Norton SystemWorks, and Quicken software from a supplier who imported the fake software from Thailand. After that supplier was arrested in Canada in early 2003, Huang found new suppliers of counterfeit software and continued to resell the contraband out of her City of Industry store.

In an attempt to avoid detection, Huang arranged for the counterfeit software to be shipped to a friend's restaurant and to a friend's home under the name "John Smith." During this time, Huang had been told several times by her supplier and by federal agents that the software she was buying and selling was counterfeit. Nevertheless, Huang sold counterfeit software with a retail value of more than \$200,000.

Huang faces a maximum possible sentence of 75 years in federal prison when she is sentenced August 21 by United States District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper, who presided over the trial.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*